

CONNECT

SUMMER | 2024



In this edition of *Connect*, we highlight the importance of Climate Justice and profile three very different donors.

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An Introduction to the Development Team

It's been a big year for the Development team, and we've enjoyed getting to know more of you and hearing about the challenges you see for Greater Melbourne, the causes and issues that you care about and seeing how you contribute to change in so many great organisations.

We are inspired by the many passionate people, giving intentionally and thoughtfully through the Foundation. The impact of your donations is multiplied by the power of the collective and together we can connect great people, organisations and ideas together in an informed way to direct positive change where it is needed most in Greater Melbourne.

We are looking at ways to help you better understand the causes and issues affecting Greater Melbourne and how we can contribute best as a collective to ensure that Melbourne is a place where all our community thrives. We look forward to sharing these ideas with you soon.

Thank you for your trust you place in us and the support of our work to address the critical issues our community faces.

We wish you, your family and loved ones a wonderful festive season.



Carolyn Williams
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Coordinator



**LORD
MAYOR'S
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FOUNDATION**



Our Annual Report 2023/24 is now available online and in print

Please visit lmcf.link/AR24 to access it online, or email info@lmcf.org.au for a printed copy.



We acknowledge the Wurundjeri and Bunurong peoples of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands on which we live and work.

We pay respect to Elders past and present, and acknowledge their continuing connections to culture, community, land and sea.

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CEO's Message

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to share with you some exciting developments at Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation as we embark on a new strategic journey.

While we explore how we need to evolve, our commitment to shifting the needle on some of Melbourne's thorny issues remains, and we continue to enhance the experience of those that want to align their generous philanthropy with real impact.

It is through harnessing the collective power of our donors and grant partners we can create a better, brighter future for Greater Melbourne - one that is inclusive, sustainable, and empowers people who are vulnerable to participate in community life.

In this edition of *Connect*, we highlight the generosity, kindness and inspiration of our community, both donors and grant partners. We farewell and pay tribute to one of our most respected long-term donors, Frank Sims who was a supporter of the Foundation for 50 years. I wish to share my condolences to his family.

We feature stories from our donors, Australian Multicultural Community Services and the Draper family. We also share two inspirational projects that are addressing risks of homelessness and provide an update on SisterWorks recent expansion.

For many the challenge of finding affordable and stable housing is becoming such a pressing issue for Greater Melbourne, I encourage you to consider donating to our end of year appeal, which aims to address some of the critical issues facing our community.

In this season of giving, I want you know how much we appreciate your support and you being part of our community. Wishing you a safe and happy festive season with friends and family.

Kind regards,



Peter Walton
Chief Executive Officer



SisterWorks

Grant Supports Expansion of SisterWorks

SisterWorks, a Melbourne-based grassroots social enterprise supporting economic empowerment for migrant, refugee and asylum-seeker women, proudly opened its new Sustainable Production Hub in Springvale during Refugee Week in June this year. It is funded by the pioneering Work Integration Social Enterprise (WISE) Grant program managed by the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation.

The new facility will strengthen SisterWorks' existing capabilities, including assembling, packing, repurposing unwanted materials, upcycling, and equipment rental and repairs.

This initiative specifically targets the City of Greater Dandenong, a culturally rich area with the highest rate of families lacking a parent in paid employment in metropolitan Melbourne (31%).

SisterWorks Chief Executive Officer, Ifrin Fittock said, "It is fantastic to receive this WISE grant, the support will allow us to not only increase our capacity and sustainability, but we will be able to double the number of employment opportunities for migrant and refugee women in South-East Melbourne. Women in this region encounter growing obstacles, and this support will significantly alleviate these challenges."



(Left) Maryanne Tadic, CEO of Australian Multicultural Community Services
 (Above) Recent event for carers

Looking after Multicultural Melbourne

Maryanne Tadic has a vision for Melbourne where multiculturalism and all forms of diversity are the norm – rather than the exception – and racism ceases to exist.

Born and raised in the northern suburbs of Melbourne, Maryanne appreciates what a privilege it was to grow up in a beautiful melting pot of cultures, languages and religions.

“I love how we see this diversity reflected in the people we meet, the type of businesses we see, and the many eateries and celebrations that are practiced around the city,” she says. “There is genuine appreciation and curiosity about different cultural practices and often a sincere interest in wanting to learn more. In saying this, we do know that unfortunately racism is still rife across our communities.

Maryanne is CEO of Australian Multicultural Community Services (AMCS). The organisation was originally established in 1983 as Australian Polish Community Services (APCS) to support the needs of older Polish migrants and newly arrived refugees. It has since changed its name, size and scope - extending its reach to all multicultural communities - and delivers services to most of Melbourne and Geelong. Its focus and approach echoes Maryanne’s vision for our diverse and multicultural community.

“Although we’ve grown in size, scale, and reach, the original commitment paved by our Founders remains the same; We provide culturally appropriate support to older people from multicultural communities and support newly arrived groups in facing challenges with language and isolation.”

“At AMCS we understand that culture is more than just the language we speak, it’s in all our rituals, our gestures, our celebrations, our food and shared experiences,” Maryanne says.

“Currently our employees represent over 50 different countries and speak over 40 different languages. This remains a vital component of our ability to connect with our clients and community, and being able to provide responsive, tailored and quality care.”

Lord Mayor’s Charitable Foundation welcomed AMCS into our community in 2023, when they established the Australian Multicultural Fund. Now the Foundation is delighted to welcome Maryanne Tadic, as the new CEO, to our community too.

“As an organisation we are mindful of our environmental, governance and social responsibility. We see our investment and partnership with the Foundation as a great opportunity to deliver on these goals whilst endeavouring to meet our own,” says Maryanne.

“We are also currently renting space in the For Purpose Impact Accelerator Hub at Lord Mayor’s Charitable Foundation office in the city which has provided a great opportunity to collaborate with like-minded organisations which share similar purposes to ours. We look forward partnering on future initiatives together.”

Climate Justice

We asked Dr Karyn Bosomworth, the Foundation's Program Manager for Healthy & Climate Resilient Communities - What is climate justice? And why does it matter?



FoodPrint

“Climate justice puts equity and justice at the heart of all climate change related decisions and actions. It seeks a more just, liveable, and vibrant world in which all beings can thrive,” says Dr Karyn Bosomworth.

“It recognises that climate action is an ethical and political issue - not solely an environmental or technical one. This is because climate change and its unequal impacts result from intertwining social, political, economic, cultural, and ethical choices.”

Karyn breaks it down into its simplest form:

Climate justice is about ensuring decisions and actions address the converging crises of climate change, environmental damage, and widening inequalities with balanced solutions that do not increase those injustices now, or into the future.

Climate justice aims to tackle or eliminate the underlying causes of social and ecological injustices through combining:

- adaptation - addressing immediate needs and reducing vulnerability
- resilience - reducing the impact of climate change so communities can recover faster
- mitigation - addressing the key drivers of climate change; and
- sustainable development.

Climate justice is as concerned with *how* the work is done, as much as *what* is done, including *who* is involved, *how*, and *who* is accountable. It centres those most impacted or at risk, because they have the most at stake *and* know what's needed.

Why does it matter?

“Climate justice matters,” explains Karyn, “because climate change and our responses to it do not impact everyone or everything equally.

“Marginalised and underserved communities already dealing with such inequities, face entrenched, worsened, or even new inequities. And this is not fair.

“If we address the root drivers of climate change, social inequities, and environmental injustice together, we can strengthen, instead of undermining, the fundamental determinants of good health, including a healthy natural world, healthy food, socio-economics, culture, community wellbeing, and housing.”

How can we support climate justice?

There is a number of really diverse ways we can support climate justice. Here are just a few and the organisations that are doing great work in this area:

- First Nations' self-determination and caring for Country (e.g. Willum Warrain, SeedMob)
- Sustainable food systems that are accessible to all (e.g. Sustain & FoodPrint)
- Increased energy efficient and climate resilient homes for vulnerable households (e.g. Housing justice), and;
- Enabling climate-resilient shelters, services, and infrastructure (e.g. Darebin community centres).



Norm and Pat Draper with their grandchildren

A Fortunate Life

For Norm and Pat Draper giving back is a normal part of life

Norm Draper did a lot of research before he and his wife, Pat, established Norm & Pat Draper Charitable Fund. Already retired, he wanted to set up a structured fund to ensure they could always support the causes they care about.

“I looked at what was out there, and I settled on Lord Mayor’s Charitable Foundation; firstly because of the people; secondly because it was simple and low cost compared to what else was out there in the sector; and thirdly, having the option to determine where the money is distributed,” he said.

They both value the exposure to ideas and people that they have had during the ten years since they established their fund with Lord Mayor’s Charitable Foundation.

“We are ordinary people,” says Pat, “but we’ve led a fortunate life. It is partly to do with the era we were born in. We’re Baby Boomers. We had less, expected less and ended up with more.”

Norm left school at 15 and started as a trainee technician with the then PMG (now Telstra). With the pursuit of further studies and through a range of opportunities, Norm progressed in his career to the role of Director of Industrial Relations before he left in 1993. He then established his own small specialist consultancy before retiring 10 years later. Pat too, started working young. Firstly, for a major city law firm when she was 17 and later for local suburban lawyers.

They both grew up, and brought up their family, in Melbourne’s north-west and have made time for volunteering in their local community. Norm coached junior football when he was 19 and later, when their sons competed, he volunteered extensively in junior

football and Little Athletics. Norm continues to be a long time, enthusiastic member and volunteer, at the Aberfeldie Bowls Club. Pat too has volunteered her time at a number of local community organisations and is a keen member of the Essendon Garden Club.

Place and community have been a big part in their choice of charities they support too. The Royal Children’s Hospital is “just down the road,” says Norm. Although their family have only needed the hospital services for the removal of a piece of Lego from a grandchild’s nostril, it is the impressive quality of the Hospital’s services for children overall that make it a regular recipient of Norm and Pat’s annual distributions.

Australian Rotary Health too has special meaning to Norm because of his near 25 years of active membership of the Rotary Club of Keilor. “I support their funding of targeted medical research, and their funding of education scholarships - because that does a lot for regional and remote areas – for nursing, and for Indigenous health.”

Other areas they support through their fund are youth and homelessness – for Pat, particularly older women experiencing homelessness. When she joined a choir in Melbourne’s north, the diversity of experience of some of the women her age really resonated with her. “That could have been me,” she says. “If my life had turned out differently.”

Norm plans to involve grandchildren in their giving – something he will progressively do, taking account of Lord Mayor’s Charitable Foundation recommendations of charities to which they can particularly relate.

They might describe themselves as ordinary, but Norm and Pat are changemakers. Their generosity of giving through their fund, just like their volunteering, helps shape community.

Safe as Houses



Artist impression of Make Room

Homelessness is on the rise. The cost-of-living pressures are increasing as is our housing crisis. At the last census, in 2021, more than 30,000 Victorians were homeless on census night - an increase of 24 per cent. Australia still has two of the top ten most unaffordable housing markets in the world and housing supply is an increasing issue.

We know what a difference safe and secure housing makes and that's why it's one of our priorities. It is also why we are seeking your support to help us to ensure that we can identify and fund partners who are working towards ensuring that when homelessness occurs, it is rare, brief and non-recurring.

Here are two projects that with the support of donors, Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation is helping to make a difference for those most vulnerable to the risk of homelessness and entrenched homelessness:

Home of Your Own

Justice Connect is empowering women to use recent changes to rental laws in Victoria through a digital tool called Home of Your Own. This tool helps renters write a personalised letter to their landlord about their safety and privacy needs as well as get targeted pathways to additional legal, housing, financial and family violence support. While we should celebrate positive changes that give renters more rights, these rights are often ineffective if we don't give people a way to use them which is why the tool is being widely shared to raise awareness about these important rights that allow women to take action to safely avoid homelessness.

Make Room

Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation has worked to build affordable housing on underutilised land for almost a decade through our Affordable Housing Challenge. The idea behind Make Room started before the pandemic; to create housing through an underutilised building in partnership with the City of Melbourne. Make Room now involves a number of philanthropic and government partners, including Unison Housing, cohealth and the Victorian Government. The redevelopment is complete and tenanting will commence soon providing 50 self-contained apartments, alongside a range of communal areas and multidisciplinary on-site support. The supported transitional housing model will provide a pathway to long-term housing in the heart of the city.

The Foundation understands the complex range of issues that can lead someone to become homeless, including family violence, unexpected economic challenges, mental health issues, drug and alcohol in addition to the lack of affordable housing options,

Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation has a longstanding commitment to alleviating homelessness. Please join us as we continue working with our partners on preventing the causes of homelessness particularly for women and children, focus on ending enduring homelessness and find innovative ways to increase the supply of affordable, safe and healthy housing.

Together we can work towards safer, more secure and affordable housing for our fellow Melburnians.

You can donate by using the attached form, online lmcf.link/Donate24 or via phone (03) 9633 0033



Fifty years of giving –Vale Frank Sims

Not many of our donors have celebrated their own centenary, but Frank Sims, one of the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation's most respected donors, was 100 years old when he passed away in May this year.

Frank, and his wife Meg, first became donors 50 years ago after responding to one of the Foundation's annual fundraising appeals.

In 2010, after Meg had passed away, Frank established the Meg and Frank Sims Fund to honour her life as a dedicated wife, mother, and generous community volunteer and supporter.

Frank grew up in Abbotsford during the Depression years and used to recall the great community spirit that was experienced then. He often spoke of how everyone looked out for each other, such as when his father was ill in hospital. This kindness left a lasting impression. He felt he had had a fortunate life and liked to help when he could.

After enlisting on his 18th birthday in the Royal Australia Airforce, Frank was soon sent to Canada for training and then on to England during World War 2. For three years he was part of an allied forces team and was stationed in Scotland.

Frank and Meg were married in 1947 and settled into family life with their son and daughter, and watched as their family grew to include eight grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Frank's career spanned 45 years with the State Electricity Commission and by his retirement he was the Director of Human Resources overseeing a workforce of 23,000 staff.

Fifty years of Frank's support has touched many lives and now his legacy lives on through his Charitable Fund and generous gift in his Will. With this final gift, Frank's desire to help others continues in perpetuity and with an increased impact for the areas of support Frank was so passionate about.



Donor, Frank Sims

The Foundation has recently welcomed Frank's daughter Elizabeth as fund successor. She had this to share about her father's commitment to supporting community:

“My Dad had great Christian faith all his long life. He was sustained by it, motivated by it, strengthened by it, in all he faced in life. He showed his faith in his love of people ... he helped them all financially and practically.

“Privately and without fanfare, Dad made a huge contribution to the welfare and happiness of recipients of charities through the Meg and Frank Sims Fund that he established through the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation. The Fund is huge for a man not of great wealth.”

Consider supporting a social enterprise this festive season. These are just some of many that you can find at the Purpose Precinct, Queen Victoria Market, or online:

- SisterWorks Inc.
- Good Cycles
- HoMie Clothing
- Free to Feed
- STREAT
- Green Collect



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- \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000
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All contributions of \$2 or more to Lord Mayor's Charitable Fund (ABN 63 635 798 473) and Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation (ABN 48 042 414 556) are tax deductible. Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation is the trustee of the Fund.

A photograph of a modern, multi-story residential building. The building features a prominent wooden slat facade on the upper levels and a balcony with a matching wooden railing. Large windows are visible on the ground floor. The building is set against a clear blue sky. The overall aesthetic is contemporary and warm.

**Join us in working towards
safer, more secure and
affordable housing for our
fellow Melburnians.
Donate today.**



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